

Female.—Thorax with a slight transverse impression near each side of the base. Antennal joints 9 and 10 evidently narrower than the large terminal one.

E. piciceps (233) is the nearest ally, but in it joints 2-7 of the antennæ are evidently longer than broad.

Length $1\frac{1}{2}$; breadth quite $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Tairua, Auckland. Sent by myself to Dr. Sharp about forty years ago, both sexes; now in the British Museum.

XVII.—*On the Systematic Position of the Coleopterous Genus Lemodes (Heteromera), with Notes on some Allied Genera.*
By K. G. BLAIR, B.Sc., F.E.S.

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THE genus *Lemodes* was created in 1858 by Boheman ('Voy. de la Frégate Eugénie,' Ins. p. 103) for the reception of the brilliant little Australian *L. coccinea*, Bohem., and was placed by its author in the family Pyrochroidæ. Here it was left by Lacordaire (Gen. Col. v. p. 604) with an expression of doubt as to its being correctly included in the family, from the other members of which it presents many points of difference.

Since this date (1859) many other species of the genus have been described without any alteration being made in its systematic position: in 1873 Macleay described *L. mastersi* from Gayndah, Queensland (Trans. Ent. Soc. N.S.W. ii. p. 308); in 1883 Oberthür (Col. Novit. i. p. 63) described *L. albertisi* from New Guinea and *L. atricollis* from Victoria (a further note on the latter by M. Pic appeared in 'L'Échange,' xxii. 1906, p. 56); in 1895 Lea (Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. (2) x. p. 282) described *L. elongata* and *L. corticalis*, followed in 1906 (*op. cit.* vol. xxxi. p. 226) by *L. splendens*, all from New South Wales; while, to conclude the list, in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) ix. 1912, p. 533, I added *L. ceruleiventris* and *L. tumidipennis*.

The last species was described upon a single specimen bearing no nearer indication of its habitat than "Australia," but since then, by the courtesy of Commander Walker, I have been enabled to examine a series of the same species taken by him in conjunction with Mr. H. J. Carter at Otford in the Illawarra district, Sydney. Mr. Carter informs me further that it occurs in the North Coast district also. It is found on or under rotten bark and in the rotten wood of old

timber in the "scrub," and apparently feeds on the fungoid growths infesting such situations. It is not gregarious like *L. coccinea*, Boh.

L. tumidipennis differs very considerably from the other species of the genus *Lemodes*, not only in the peculiar form of the elytra, which may indeed be considered merely an exaggeration of that which is found in *L. coccinea*, but also in the lack of the long silky red pubescence, with which the others are for the most part clothed, and more particularly in the shape of the head, which instead of being strongly transverse and subtriangular in outline, and almost truncate behind the eyes, is almost circular in outline and strongly rounded behind the eyes. The prothorax is about half as long again as it is broad and more strongly compressed laterally before the base, so that it appears to bulge out dorso-ventrally. These characters certainly warrant generic separation, and I propose for it the name *Lemodinus*.

The small size and general facies of this insect give it a distinctly Anthicid appearance, indeed a search amongst the unnamed Anthicid material in the Museum Collection revealed the presence of some of the specimens taken by Commander Walker and presented by him. An examination of the characters, together with those of *Lemodes*, proves that both these genera should be transferred to the Anthicidæ. The deep form of the body, not at all depressed, the more or less moniliform antennæ, the small, entire, and prominent eyes, the constricted prothorax, and, finally, the broad triangular intercoxal process of the abdomen all point to their true affinities with the Anthicidæ and are characters all quite foreign to the Pyrochroidæ. Herr von Kreckich-Strassoldo informs me further that the genitalia agree in general with those of the Anthicidæ, and that the lower wings, while belonging, as do those of all the Heteromera, to Ganglbauer's Type III. (Münchener Koleopt. Zeitschr. 1903, p. 292, or Gahan in Entom. vol. xlv. 1911, p. 125), yet in *Lemodes* show a more developed form than appears in the Pyrochroidæ; in the Anthicidæ these organs show very considerable variety in their degree of development.

To the same group of genera as indicated by Mr. Blackburn (Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austr. 1899, vol. xxiii. p. 83) belongs his genus *Trichananca*. Mr. Blackburn has sufficiently demonstrated the relationship of *T. victoriensis*, Blackbn., with *Lemodes*, indeed he considered that *L. corticalis*, Lea = *T. victoriensis*, Blackbn. (the latter name taking precedence); while an examination of the type of *T. victoriensis* now in the collection of the British Museum makes it clear

that its relationship with the Anthicid genus *Tomoderus* is at least equally close. From *Tomoderus*, *Trichananca* differs in the peculiar formation of its anterior tarsi and in its more slender antennæ, the individual joints of which are all considerably elongate. I cannot accept Blackburn's statement that "the relation between the head and the prothorax is quite as in *Techmessa*" (Eulemeridæ). In that genus the head is not constricted behind, but fits directly into the prothorax, whereas in *Trichananca* the head is sharply constricted behind, forming a very distinct neck, which, however, is to a great extent sunk in the prothorax. The relation between the head and prothorax in *Trichananca* is remarkably similar to that in *Tomoderus compressicollis*, Motsch. This character was correctly recognized by Lea in his description of *Lemodes corticalis*.

XVIII.—Notes on *S. American* Leporidae.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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(1) THE SMALL "TAPETI" OF RIO JANEIRO.

IN common with other authors, I have hitherto taken the small Rio Janeiro hare as being Linné's *Lepus brasiliensis*, pending the identification of an exact locality for the latter.

Now, however, that, in the course of my studies on the 'Systema Naturæ,' Pernambuco has been fixed as the type locality of *L. brasiliensis**, a renewed examination of the Eastern Brazilian hares is needed.

Among the several series of hares obtained by A. Robert in Brazil is a set of nine specimens from Lamarão, Bahia, a locality on the railway that runs north-westwards from the town of Bahia, and therefore not so very far from Pernambuco. For the moment, therefore, these may be treated as true *L. brasiliensis*.

This animal, while slightly smaller than my "*L. minensis*" from the Rio Jordão, is undoubtedly of the same group (skull about 70 mm. in total length), and I am now of opinion that the forms which have been termed *minensis*,

* P. Z. S. 1911, p. 146. Pallas's *Lepus tapeti*, being equally based on Marcgrave's Tapeti, is an absolute synonym of *S. brasiliensis*.